

RESPONSE TO ADVISORY ACTION
S/N 09/921,588
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REMARKS

This response is intended as a full and complete response to the Advisory Action mailed on September 10, 2003. The Examiner had indicated that the previously filed Response dated August 25, 2003 would not be entered since amended claim 1 lacks the antecedent basis and that claim 9 would require a new rejection. Applicants respectfully disagree.

Claim 9 had a previously undetected antecedent basis error which preexisted the filing of the Response dated August 25, 2003, and therefore, is an issue separate to the amendment to claim 1. The antecedent basis issue of claim 9 is now corrected by the amendment indicated above.

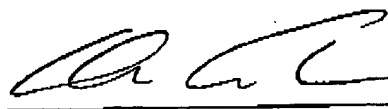
Referring to Claim 1, the Examiner alleges that the introduced term "the polishing material" lacks antecedent basis. The Examiner's attention is directed to line 3 of claim 1 that recites "a rotating polishing material" which provides proper support for the introduced term "polishing material" in line 9. The replacement of "portions" of the polishing material with "zones" of polishing material is one of form and organization, and does not change the scope of the claim. Therefore, the refusal to enter the amendment to claim 1 on the basis of lack of antecedent basis was improper.

Moreover, the Applicants submit that the amendments above have been made solely to clarify the claim language for appeal. Therefore, the Applicants believe that the scope of the claims remains unchanged and the claims are now in better condition for appeal. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request entry of the amendment presented in this paper.

If the Examiner believes that any unresolved issues still exist, it is requested that the Examiner telephone Keith Taboada at (732) 530-9404 so that appropriate arrangements can be made for resolving such issues as expeditiously as possible.

Respectfully submitted,

Sept 25, 2003



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